

## Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4605  
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMCONSUL MONTREAL  
AMCONSUL QUEBEC  
ALL OTHER POSTS IN CANADA VIA POUCH

UNCLAS TORONTO 2184

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, SOPN, CA  
SUBJECT: TORONTO STAR DETAILS SUGGESTED FEDERAL PROVINCIAL  
RELATIONSHIP IN SERIES ON QUEBEC

REF: TORONTO 2162

1. THE FOURTH OF THE TORONTO STAR'S EDITORIALS IN RESPONSE TO THE "PERIL" OF THE SEPARATIST VICTORY IN QUEBEC, "A PLAN TO KEEP CANADA'S DREAM ALIVE," WAS PUBLISHED DECEMBER 1, THE EDITORIAL, NOTING HOW RIGIDITY IN THE BRITISH COLONIAL SYSTEM LED TO THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, STATED THAT CANADA "AS NOW CONSTITUTED -- WITH ONE OF THE MOST RIGID CONSTITUTIONS IN THE WORLD -- CANNOT ACCOMMODATE QUEBEC'S AUTONOMOUS SURGE, WHICH ITSELF IS ROOTED IN THE INSTINCT OF A PEOPLE FOR CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC SURVIVAL." THE EDITORIAL PROPOSED A DECENTRALIZED FEDERAL SYSTEM IN WHICH "OTTAWA WOULD PLAY A MUCH SMALLER AND LESS OBTRUSIVE -- BUT STILL VITAL -- ROLE IN OUR LIVES."

2. THE STAR STATED THAT THREE BROAD AREAS MUST REMAIN WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO "MAINTAIN CANADA AS A WORKABLE ENTITY.": (1) ECONOMIC CONTROL, (2) DEFENSE, (3) FOREIGN POLICY ("WITH ALLOWABLE EXCEPTIONS FOR MATTERS UNDER PROVINCIAL JURISDICTION"). THE EDITORIAL CONTINUED THAT IMMIGRATION  
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WOULD HAVE TO BE CENTRALIZED BUT THAT "OVERALL POLICY COULD

AND SHOULD BE MODIFIED TO SERVE QUEBEC'S PARTICULAR NEEDS." THE STAR FELT THAT IN DEFENSE "QUEBEC COULD HAVE ITS SYMBOL BY PUTTING ITS FORCES IN DIFFERENCE UNIFORMS" WITHIN A UNIFIED SYSTEM AND THAT IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS "IT WOULD BE TOLERABLE FOR QUEBEC TO HAVE RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, AND EVEN EXCHANGES OF REPRESENTATIVES, FOR MATTERS UNDER ITS CONTROL" (E.G. - EDUCATION).

3. THE EDITORIAL STATED "TO PREVENT A WIDENING OF REGIONAL DISPARITIES IN LIVING STANDARDS AND PUBLIC SERVICES, EQUALIZATION PAYMENTS SHOULD BE CONTINUED FROM OTTAWA TO PROVINCES BELOW THE NATIONAL AVERAGE IN PER CAPITA WEALTH PRODUCTION. QUEBEC IS ONE OF THEM. ALL OTHER FEDERAL FUNCTIONS AND POWERS COULD BE OFFERED TO ANY PROVINCE THAT WANTED THEM -- AN OFFER THAT GETS AROUND THE CHARGE OF 'SPECIAL STATUS' FOR QUEBEC ALONE, EVEN THOUGH QUEBEC COULD BE EXPECTED TO MAKE FULLEST USE OF IT. SUCH A CHANGE WOULD GIVE QUEBEC FULL CONTROL OF THE FIELDS THAT REALLY MATTER TO ITS UNIQUE IDENTITY: IN PARTICULAR, CULTURE, COMMUNICATIONS, SOCIAL POLICY AND PROBABLY CRIMINAL LAW."

4. "BUT SWEEPING CHANGE, RATIONALLY AND VOLUNTARILY ENTERED INTO, IS BETTER THAN HAVING A DISRUPTIVE CHANGE FORCED UPON US. AND NEITHER MINOR CHANGES NOR WAITING AND HOPING WILL ASSURE THE SURVIVAL OF CANADA. IT'S POSSIBLE OF COURSE THAT THE QUEBEC GOVERNMENT WOULD REJECT SUCH A DEAL AS WE HAVE OUTLINED, AND PROCEED TOWARD OUTRIGHT SEPARATION. EVEN SO, THE CANADAIN CAUSE IN QUEBEC -- WHICH IS FAR FROM BEING LOST NOW -- COULD BE GREATLY STRENGTHENED BY PUTTING A BOLD NEW POLICY FORWARD IN PLACE OF THE TRUDEAU FEDERALISM WHICH HAS SIGNALLY FAILED TO WIN QUEVEC'S LOYALTY. IT SHOULD BE FAR EASIER TO PROMOTE THE FEDERALIST CASE THERE WITH A POLICY THAT GUARANTEED FRENCH CANADAIN QUEBECKERS NOT ONLY ECONOMIC ADVANTAGE, AS COMPARED WITH SEPARATION, BUT ALSO COMPLETE CONTROL OF THEIR CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC DESTINY. A NEW DEAL SHOULD AT LEAST BE TRIED, BUT NOT BY THE TRUDEAU GOVERNMENT IN ITS PRESENT STATE OF WEAKNESS. STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT FOR THE TRIALS AHEAD -- AND FOR A BOLD ATTEMPT TO SAVE THE CANADIAN UNION -- WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF A FINAL EDITORIAL TOMORROW."

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